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FLD 350CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC Air Activity by Twin-Engine Planes in East Germany

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1. At about 6 p.m. on 28 June 1953, 30 twin-engine planes with cargo gliders flew over Naumburg from southeast to northwest. At 7:15 p.m. the twin-engine planes returned without cargo gliders. Between 9 a.m. and noon on 30 June, about 50 twin-engine planes with cargo gliders were observed flying over Naumburg from northwest to southeast. Twin-engine planes with cargo gliders were again observed over the town at 5:45 p.m. but had changed their courses. At 7:45 a.m. on 2 July, 18 twin-engine planes with cargo gliders approached from the northwest. ¹

2. Between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 1 July, 36 twin-engine planes were continuously observed over the Mahlow-Rangsdorf-Wuensdorf-Baruth area. ²

Comment. These air landing exercises in the Thuringian area apparently repeat every year. In July 1952, the planes took off from Altenburg airfield which, at that time, was occupied by the air transport regiment of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

In 1953, the exercises started from Brandis airfield to which component units of the transport regiment from Schoenefeld airfield were transferred. It is believed that the 57th Gds Mecz Div is involved in the exercises. The transport planes probably landed at Erfurt Bindersleben airfield as was also observed in 1952.

Comment. At that time, an exercise was held by the 14th Gds Mecz Div in the Trebbin area. It has not been determined whether the air activity observed is connected with the exercise by army troops. As a portion of the aircraft of the transport regiment from Schoenefeld airfield were stationed at Brandis during the time of observation, it must be assumed that the aircraft observed possibly came from outside of East Germany.

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